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Texas House to Consider Legislation That Will Address Critical Flood Recovery and Strengthen Texas' Storm Resiliency

HOUSTON (April 10, 2019) – The Texas House will consider House Bill 13 by Representative Dade Phelan this Wednesday related to flood planning, mitigation, and infrastructure. HB 13 appropriates \$3.26 billion out of the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) to create a statewide flood infrastructure fund.

Houston Stronger supports HB 13 and thanks Representative Phelan and Speaker Dennis Bonnen for addressing the critical need for flood mitigation and disaster recovery. Over 100 House members have signed on as authors or co-authors of HB 13.

“We are grateful that the Texas Legislature, Representative Phelan and Speaker Bonnen have made this a priority,” said Auggie Campbell, spokesperson for Houston Stronger. “This legislation establishes a path for communities to fund flood mitigation projects and leverage billions of federal recovery dollars for Texas.”

Texas leads the nation in declared major disasters and square miles of flood-prone land. Hurricane Harvey alone inflicted an estimated \$125 billion in damage and caused 82 deaths. Since 2015, Texas has had nine declared disasters related to flooding and 65% of Texas Counties have experienced flooding.

“The Greater Houston Partnership is pleased the Texas House has made disaster relief, preparedness and future mitigation a focus this session,” said Taylor Landin, the Greater Houston Partnership’s Senior Vice President for Policy and Houston Stronger member. “Hurricane Harvey was a wake-up call for all Texans and the Legislature has answered the call with legislation that will make Texas better prepared for future disasters. A more resilient Texas is a more competitive Texas, and we are grateful to the Legislature for their commitment to this important issue.”

Houston Stronger looks forward to working with these leaders as well as other lawmakers and officials in order to develop a comprehensive solution to make Texas more resilient.

About Houston Stronger: Houston Stronger is a coalition of civic groups, business associations and active citizens throughout the Texas Gulf Coast region dedicated to working with local, state and federal officials to implement a comprehensive regional flood control plan that safeguards our citizens and property.

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